



REVIEWS

BOOKS

Reviewed by Ruth Parnell

SLEEPING WITH THE DEVIL: How Washington Sold Our Soul For Saudi Crude

by Robert Baer

Three Rivers Press, USA, 2003, 2004
ISBN 1-4000-5268-8 (238pp tpb)
Availability: Three Rivers Press,
<http://www.crownpublishing.com>

Former CIA operative Robert Baer (of bestseller *See No Evil* fame) presents a disturbing portrait of the ruling Al-Sa'ud family of Saudi Arabia and its long-time cosy relationship with prominent US political figures and corporations. Starting with a scenario prepared by US engineers on President Reagan's orders on how terrorists could easily blow up the Saudi oil fields and infrastructure, Baer suggests such a doomsday script is possible today—and if it happened, it would cause the world's economies to collapse (the future Saudi peak oil disaster is really not part of his analysis). And with the House of Sa'ud becoming increasingly unpopular in Saudi Arabia for its greed and corruption, it's no wonder that fundamentalist Islamic groups are lighting the fuse of a powder keg that's ready to explode.

In his field research for *Sleeping with the Devil*, Baer found that his agency background could still open doors to key contacts (the CIA, though, has redacted some paragraphs, words and dates, as indicated by the black bars). His new afterword, written after the US invasion of Iraq, includes interviews with Islamic militants in Iraq and several neighbouring Arab nations on the

geopolitical future of their region.

The main focus of this book, though, is on America's oil-centric dependence on Saudi Arabia and the lengths to which the rich and powerful on both sides will go to stay rich and powerful. Another focus is connecting the dots of Saudi-sourced funding of terrorism in places like Afghanistan and Central Asia, including Chechnya, and the various US-based Saudi charities that knowingly or not inevitably pipe funds to terrorist groups.

Baer's book is full of jaw-dropping intrigue, and time will tell how long the corrupt US-Saudi partnership will last.

INDONESIA'S SECRET WAR IN ACEH by John Martinkus

Random House Australia P/L, 2004
ISBN 1-74051-209-X (340pp tpb)
Availability: Random House,
<http://www.randomhouse.com.au>

Through his book, *A Dirty Little War*, Australian journalist John Martinkus did much to get the story out on the plight of the East Timorese under Indonesian rule prior to their gaining independence. Since then, he's turned his attention to the terrible price the Acehese people are paying at the hands of the Indonesian military and various separatist militia, including Islamic.

Three years in the preparation, *Indonesia's Secret War in Aceh* is an eye-opening journey through Aceh province in the northernmost part of the island of Sumatra. It's clear from the evidence that the military, presumably acting for powerful vested interests, is resisting the move for an independent Aceh at all costs, using tactics from inciting fear and hatred to arresting, torturing, raping and murdering. To the military, it matters not whether it conducts its dirty campaigns dur-

ing humanitarian cease-fires or after the signing of peace agreements; it even uses the protection of corporations like ExxonMobil against the populace.

Things haven't improved since 9/11, the "war on terrorism" now another excuse for the military and its government sponsors to justify more killing. Often the military puts the blame on GAM, the Free Aceh Movement, which is conducting a guerrilla war, and the people end up living in yet more fear. While Aceh has a rich history of fighting for independence that goes back to the 1870s and the beginning of the uprising against the Dutch colonists, what's happening in Aceh now is out of control. It's not an easy ride for journalists, either, and our intrepid author is lucky to have survived.

Martinkus's main fear is that the world community is blind to the reality of what's going on in Aceh—and also to the plight of the peoples of West Papua and Ambon in the Moluccas who are also subjected to Indonesian military might, as reported in the final chapter. A huge wake-up call.



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DRUG WAR CRIMES: The Consequences of Prohibition by Jeffrey A. Miron

The Independent Institute, USA, 2004
ISBN 0-945999-90-9 (107pp tpb)
Availability: The Independent Institute,
<http://www.independent.org>

In this balanced analysis of the pros and cons of drug prohibition, author Jeffrey Miron, Professor of Economics at Boston University, concludes that legalisation of drugs comes out ahead of prohibition.

First looking at the economics of prohibition, Miron discovers that it reduces drug consumption only moderately but results in a significant increase in violence and corruption. Drug prohibition is also expensive: the US government spent more than \$33 billion on it in recent years, and every year it arrests 1.5 million citizens on drug-related charges. These issues are important in evaluating the costs/benefits of prohibition.

Following on, Miron comes up with figures from the alcohol prohibition era in the early 20th century that are instructive in determining the effect of prohibition on drug consumption. Though this area of study is problematic, he says existing evidence is scant that marijuana decriminalisation is accompanied by increased marijuana use. Next, Miron devotes a chapter to the issue of violence, concluding that high rates of prohibition enforcement are associated with high rates of violence—in stark contrast to the usual defence of prohibition that enforcement *reduces* violence.

So, is prohibition good policy if at least it can reduce drug consumption, assuming this is a good thing for health? And if it can't, which he says it doesn't, what's the point if it causes more violence? Miron examines the

normative argument, finding that prohibition is almost certainly the wrong approach. Considering alternatives to prohibition and other policies on drugs, including subsidised treatment centres and needle exchanges, Miron says the evidence favours legalisation for the sake of liberty and utility.

INSIDE JOB: Unmasking the 9/11 Conspiracies by Jim Marrs

Origin Press, USA, 2004
ISBN 1-57983-013-7 (216pp tpb)
Availability: Origin Press,
<http://www.insidejob-911.com>

With so much of our energy these days focused on America's botched-up war in Iraq, let's not forget the "trigger" for this mess: the events of September 11, 2001. In *Inside Job*, veteran investigative journalist/author Jim Marrs (*Crossfire: The Plot That Killed Kennedy; Rule by Secrecy*, reviewed in 8/01) analyses the events of 9/11 in terms of the anomalies that many of us noted at the time but which the US government and mainstream media have conveniently glossed over or ignored.

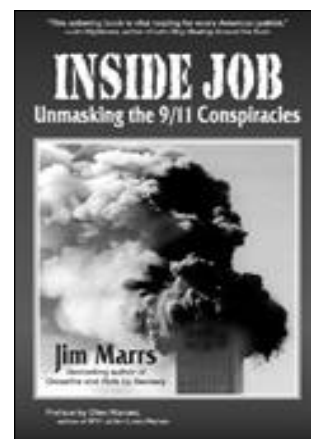
Marrs has dedicated his book to those who suffered the loss of loved ones during the horrors of 9/11, for they deserve to know the truth about what *really* happened that fateful day. The preface, by Ellen Mariani (whose husband, a passenger on United Airlines Flight 175, was killed in the attacks), is a determined call for answers from the US government; in fact, she's suing it under the RICO (Racketeering Influenced and Corrupt Organizations) Act, alleging that the attacks were no surprise.

Anyone who's searched the Net these last few years for clues as to "who dunnit" will

find some concurrence with what Marrs has deduced: that the 9/11 attacks smack of being an "inside job", or at least of being carried out with high-level (read shadow government) complicity.

It was all too convenient, in retrospect, for both the NRO and NORAD to be conducting "exercises" on the morning of September 11 involving hijacked planes being crashed into significant buildings—which would have added to the confusion in military circles that day. Scenarios involving remotely controlled aircraft, unexplained explosions during what looked like controlled demolitions of the World Trade Center Twin Towers, and the possibility that a disguised cruise missile—not a 757 passenger jet—hit the Pentagon make for passionate questioning and, hopefully, debate.

Marrs touches on a web of secret agendas in his alarming 9/11 analysis. He may not provide the answers, but he certainly challenges the official story and makes us reassess the propaganda we've been fed.





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CIVILIZATION ONE: The World Is Not As You Thought It Was

by Christopher Knight and Alan Butler
Watkins Publishing, UK, 2004
ISBN 1-84293-095-8 (258pp hc)
Availability: Watkins Publishing,
<http://www.watkinspublishing.com>;
<http://www.civilizationone.com>

In *Civilization One*, Christopher Knight and Alan Butler expand on the work done over five decades in the mid-20th century by Prof. Alexander Thom, who rediscovered the linear measure known as the "megalithic yard"—a length of 82.966 centimetres in the metric system—and found that most of the megalithic structures of Britain and France were built using this measurement.

In their research, Knight and Butler discovered that half a megalithic yard could be replicated by using a weighted pendulum while observing the path of the planet Venus between two points and counting out 366 swings. If there were too many or too few swings, the length of the pendulum's string would be adjusted to get the right count—and *voilà*, a calibrated megalithic half-yard.

It meant, too, that the megalithic yard was derived from the polar circumference of the Earth and that a second of arc of the polar equator was equivalent to 366 megalithic yards. The authors were amazed to learn that this measurement with its derivations for volume and weight has correlations with those systems that emerged after Neolithic times, such as the Sumerian, Egyptian, Minoan and Greek, but also with French 12th-century Avoirdupois measures and the metric system developed in the late 18th century. Noting that the arc measurement is also a measure of time, based as it is on the rotation of the Earth and its relationship with

the Moon and Sun, Knight and Butler began looking at the concept of the megalithic second and relating it to the frequencies of sound, light and colour. Incredibly, they learned that the megalithic second, which they identified as 366 Thoms (Th), equivalent to 560 Hz or just above C-sharp, is supposedly regarded by the Australian Aborigines as *the* sacred sound of the Earth. They also discovered coded into the megalithic numbers the ratios of *pi* and *phi*, thus proving that the ancients were tapped into the harmony of the spheres.

These revelations leave no doubt that our prehistoric forebears had a sophisticated knowledge of Earth and the solar system and of measure, music, number and time.

GODS, GENES AND CONSCIOUSNESS: Nonhuman intervention in human history

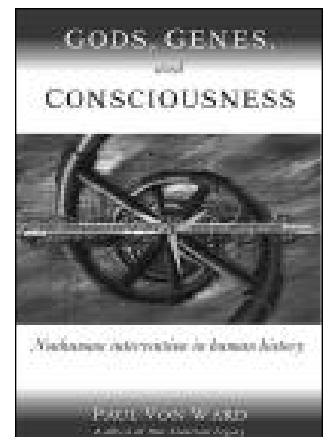
by Paul Von Ward
Hampton Roads, USA, 2004
ISBN 1-57174-379-0 (320pp tpb)
Availability: Hampton Roads Publishing Company, <http://www.hrpub.com>

There's a so-called "disconnect" between what institutionalised scientists, politicians and religious leaders say about non-human consciousness and what millions of people around the world, and throughout history, have been saying about interactions with advanced beings. However, in *Gods, Genes and Consciousness*, author and Harvard-trained scholar Paul Von Ward says the time is right at the beginning of the 21st century for a reassessment of the human response to advanced beings (ABs, as he calls them), whether they be aliens, angels, gods, guardians, ascended masters, extradi-dimensional spirits or interplanetary beings.

Part of this reassessment involves working out why such experiences with ABs have been so ignored or suppressed through the ages; another is working out how to resolve the ideological and religious differences that so plague our modern world. Yet, according to Von Ward's findings from studying sacred texts, myths and legends, all these entities are part and parcel of our natural universe and there's no denying their existence: for not only may some of them have given us the gifts of language, writing, mathematics and science but the gift of advanced genes.

Whatever their description, they've been playing a role in the evolution of humanity and the rise of civilisations since prehistoric times up to the present day. It's hard not to conclude that by suppressing the influence of ABs, terrestrial powers are serving to control the masses of humankind.

Von Ward urges that it's time for a Public AB Discussion Project to be set up so we can get this out into the open and understand it as part of the grand cosmic tapestry.



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GUARDIANS OF THE HOLY GRAIL: The Knights Templar, John the Baptist and the Water of Life

by Mark Amaru Pinkham

Adventures Unlimited Press, USA, 2004

ISBN 1-931882-28-2 (340pp tpb)

Availability: Adventures Unlimited Press,
<http://www.adventuresunlimitedpress.com>;
NEXUS offices

Esoteric researcher Mark Amaru Pinkham comes up with new angles on undercurrents of history in *Guardians of the Holy Grail*. Not an exclusively Western mystery tradition, the Grail legacy he says can be traced to the first Fisher King and to the East and the Garden of Eden—which, as some legends have it, was in Sri Lanka.

Pinkham explains how the Grail legend originated and evolved into European lore, the embodiment seen in the Green Man image that decorates the Templar/Sinclair-built Rosslyn Chapel in Scotland and many monuments throughout Britain.

The Green Man, symbolising the Lord of the World, is associated with the god Enki of Sumerian tradition and with John the Baptist. According to the Mandaean belief system, John the Baptist was a reincarnation of the Enki spirit, and Pinkham suggests that this belief found its way from the East to the Essene sect, which regarded John the Baptist as the promised messiah.

The distinction Pinkham makes is that the Grail, with its Cup imagery, was a vessel for the "human Holy Grail"—the life force that adepts could collect and channel. That force is also known as *kundalini*—the serpent wisdom. It's at the root of most esoteric sects throughout history, including the Knights Templar who were charged with keeping the alchemical and tantric secrets.

With cooperation from the Sinclair family, Pinkham has been involved in forming a new International Order of Gnostic Templars to help solve more mysteries and preserve the original Gnosticism. A daunting task, if his far-ranging book is a guide.

AXIS OF DECEIT

by Andrew Wilkie

Black Inc. Agenda, Australia, 2004

ISBN 0-9750769-2-2 (200pp tpb)

Availability: Black Inc. Agenda,
<http://www.blackincbooks.com>

In March 2003, just before the US invaded Iraq, Australian intelligence analyst Andrew Wilkie turned whistleblower on the Howard government, creating a huge furor.

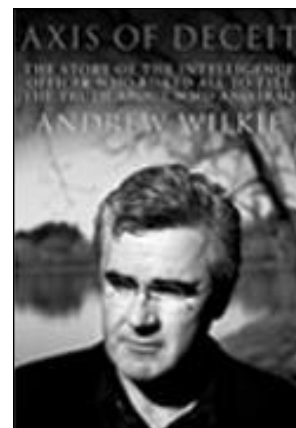
A former army lieutenant-colonel, Wilkie was a senior transnational issues analyst with the Office of National Assessments (ONA) at the time, and had been brewing over his decision since late 2002 when he prepared a report for his superiors to present to the Australian government on the anticipated dire humanitarian consequences of a war in Iraq. Unfortunately the Howard government continued with its "all the way with the USA" approach and committed troops to the so-called Coalition of the Willing. But Wilkie makes it clear that the military had its orders by mid-2002, contrary to Prime Minister John Howard's statements.

Even Wilkie admits he thought some evidence of WMDs might be found in Iraq, but agrees there was scant evidence to justify an invasion in violation of international law. When he could see that the government was ignoring reliable intelligence, including dispatches from diplomats and agents on the ground in the US itself, he was certain of the political agenda behind Howard's support

for the Bush administration's goals.

Axis of Deceit is a blow-by-blow account of what happened behind the scenes in intelligence circles that led Wilkie to his fateful decision to put his career on the line. As well as explaining the intricacies of intelligence workings both within Australia and in relationship with the USA and UK, and to a lesser extent with New Zealand and Canada (UKUSA Pact primary and secondary players), Wilkie gives a perceptive view of recent political machinations. He manages to do this without revealing any state secrets but drawing instead on public information.

Having raised his profile giving evidence in UK hearings over the death of weapons inspector David Kelly as well as at Australian inquiries, Wilkie has now turned to politics and as a Greens candidate is causing a stir by contesting PM Howard's seat in the October 2004 federal election. With "truth in government" being a key issue in the lead-up, this catch-phrase has already become the source of much irony.





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SKEWED: Psychiatric Hegemony and the Manufacture of Mental Illness...

by **Martin J. Walker**

Slingshot Publications Ltd, UK, 2003

ISBN 0-9519646-4X (284pp tpb)

Price: £12 + £2.50 p&h (cheque payment)

Availability: Slingshot Publications Ltd, BM Box 8314, London WC1N 3XX, UK, email fraka@arrakis.es

Two diametrically opposed schools of thought concerning illnesses that orthodox medicine is unable to explain rest on psychiatric and organic causes. For now, the psychiatric argument—that these unexplained illnesses are "all in the mind"—is winning because the organic/physical causes require health authorities and the medical profession to acknowledge unpleasant facts about the adverse effects of chemicals, vaccines, EMR, pharmaceutical drugs, food additives and so on. There's no coincidence that the rise in "unexplained illnesses" has gone hand in hand with the increasing proliferation of environmental toxins.

In *Skewed*, Martin Walker (author of the groundbreaking 1993 book *Dirty Medicine*; see 2/19) acknowledges that his intention is not to provide readers with solutions to their health problems but to educate them about the conflicts of power that are intricately bound up with their plight and may explain why some doctors seem to be at war with their patients. Another of his aims is to publicise the enormous social costs of this denial on individuals and families; in cases of "munchausen syndrome by proxy", for instance, children are being separated from their parents on totally irrational grounds (see "Justice out of Balance", this issue).

His forthright argument and often heart-breaking evidence relates to experiences

with multiple chemical sensitivity (MCS), allergies, Gulf War syndrome (GWS), organophosphate (OP) poisoning, myalgic encephalomyelitis (ME), chronic fatigue syndrome (CFS) and more. It's an insult to these sufferers that their very real symptoms can be so easily dismissed as a mental fabrication—particularly when there's abundant evidence of chemical industry funding of medical and psychiatric research.

Walker's findings put the new American proposal to screen all schoolchildren for "mental illness" into an even more scary light. It's imperative that concerned people everywhere take this information on board and lobby their governments and medical authorities to wake up to reality and redress this dire situation before it's all too late.

TALISMAN:

Sacred Cities, Secret Faith

by **Graham Hancock & Robert Bauval**

Michael Joseph/Penguin, UK, 2004

ISBN 0-718-14315-9 (562pp hc)

Availability: Penguin Books,

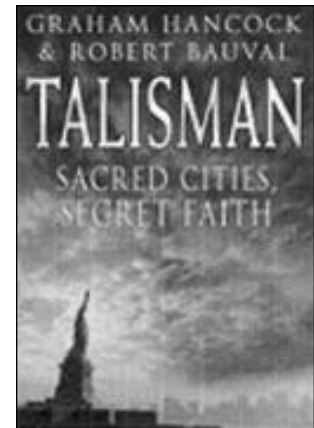
<http://www.penguin.com>

Twelve years in preparation, this collaboration between Graham Hancock and Robert Bauval (co-authors of *Keepers of Genesis*; see 3/06) is a re-evaluation of key events and movements in history in terms of the powerful influence of a secret religion.

This religion owes much to ancient Egypt and the Hermetic philosophy as well as to subsequent mystery traditions such as Gnosticism, Kabbalism and Freemasonry. Its influence can be seen coded into architecture and monuments in various parts of the world. In Paris, London, Rome and Washington, for instance, there are obelisks, cathedrals, statues, avenues and even mod-

ern office blocks sited and designed according to sacred geometry principles or to capture the rising or setting of the Sun or even Sirius. Hancock and Bauval draw parallels between the historical axis of Paris—from the Louvre to the Grande Arche—and ancient Luxor in Egypt. To illustrate the strength of this occult connection, they remind us that in France in 1793, during the "de-Christianisation" process, revolutionaries installed a large statue/fountain of the Egyptian Goddess Isis—the new Goddess of Reason—where the Bastille had stood. And following the reinstatement of the French throne, Freemason Charles X in 1827 commissioned Egyptologist Jean-François Champollion to remove a 3,500-year-old obelisk, one of a pair, from Alexandria in Egypt and transport it to Paris.

There was much more than just an obsession with things Egyptian behind such moves, and the authors provide a rollicking ride through the centuries that helps explain the hidden meanings behind the dramas.



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THE FLUORIDE DECEPTION

by Christopher Bryson

Seven Stories Press, USA, 2004

ISBN 1-58322-526-9 (374pp hc)

Availability: **Australia**—Palgrave

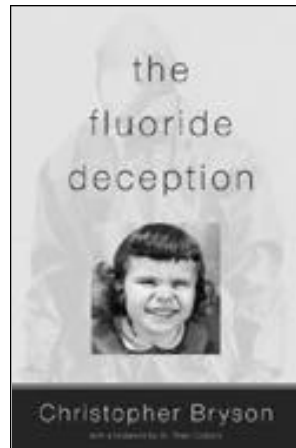
Macmillan; **UK**—Turnaround,

<http://www.turnaround-uk.com>; **USA**—

<http://www.sevenstories.com>

Since as far back as the 1930s, scientists have been speaking out about the health and environmental dangers of fluoride, but the truth is still being brushed aside by vested interests including dental associations that continue to lobby for water fluoridation in areas that don't have it. This very thing is happening today under a new City Council in Brisbane, despite the previous Lord Mayor's committee's adamant stance against it (see article and open letter this issue).

If you were ever in doubt about the safety of fluoridated water, you only have to read Christopher Bryson's chilling book, *The Fluoride Deception*. Bryson is co-author with Joel Griffiths of an article we ran in



5/03 that linked the Manhattan atomic bomb project with mass water fluoridation. As Griffiths discovered in the mid-1990s, fluoride compounds were essential in the uranium enrichment process. This angle is covered along with many more, including the history of shocking deaths due to fluorine pollution and the machinations of an industrial cabal that profits from recycling toxic waste. There's also the story of toxicologist Phillis Mullenix who, in the late 1980s, confirmed via a new high-tech computer analysis that fluorine is a dangerous neurotoxin.

A growing number of scientists and health professionals are coming around to seeing that mass water fluoridation is a bad and ineffective way to protect teeth. Apart from killing enzymes essential for health, fluoride is implicated in a host of modern illnesses including arthritis, bone cancer, osteoporosis, central nervous system disorders, Alzheimer's disease and ADHD. Yet, all too

many health authorities stay blind to the facts and continue to spit out propaganda about gleaming white teeth. Even the FDA has no problem with approving dangerous fluoride-based pharmaceuticals.

Bryson, an award-winning reporter, has produced a masterpiece of investigative journalism that will arm concerned readers in their fight to assert their health rights.

ENERGY SECRETS OF GLASTONBURY TOR

by Nicholas R. Mann

Green Magic, UK, 2004

ISBN 0-9542-9635-4 (130pp tpb)

Availability: Green Magic,

<http://www.greenmagicpublishing.com>

According to legend, Glastonbury Tor, the terraced landform rising out of the Somerset Levels in western England, has been a place of pilgrimage for 10,000 years since visitors fled there after the sinking of Atlantis. The Tor was acknowledged as a natural temple and could perform the sort of work done by the Atlanteans' destroyed temple pyramids. Says author Nicholas Mann, the Tor was the beacon on the Isle of Glass (or Isle of Avalon) which was once surrounded by an inland sea of waterways and marshlands. To seekers after truth and enlightenment, it was the *axis mundi*, the world centre, and it served as a portal between the worlds. It still holds a powerful attraction for those who live in its vicinity or visit on modern-day pilgrimages.

Intriguingly, Glastonbury Tor contains a huge underground chamber that is an aquifer of calcium- and iron-bearing layers and holds the secret to the Tor's powers. Depending on the time of year and rainfall, the Tor can be more or less energetically charged. Two main control devices for the Tor's vortex energies are the nearby Red (iron-rich) and White (calcium-rich) Springs: like negative and positive terminals on a battery, they influence the operating frequencies and affect the function of the entire Tor system. The ancients were aware of the power that could be tapped at this centre, and so thousands of years ago they moulded the Tor's terraces to take maximum advantage of these energetic frequencies.

In *Energy Secrets of Glastonbury Tor*, Mann opens up new territory by analysing the geology and energy dynamics and relating them to ancient myths, artefacts and architecture. He then takes it all a step further by describing how access can be gained to the Avalonian Soul Portal; it's a journey of initiation for those serious about connecting with the *axis mundi*. With photos, illustrations and side boxes that highlight certain esoteric points, Mann's book contains profound revelations for our times.



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MORE THAN MONEY, TRUE PROSPERITY: A Wholistic Guide...To Having It All

by Michael J. Roads

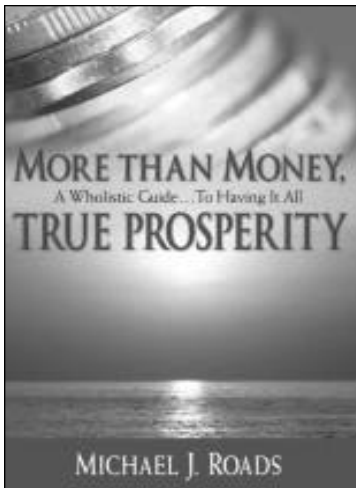
SilverRoads Publishing, USA, 2003

ISBN 1-57983-013-7 (216pp tpb)

Availability: SilverRoads Publishing,

<http://www.silverroads.com>

True prosperity is not about having material wealth but about appreciating the abundance of life, says international author, speaker and teacher Michael Roads (*The Magic of Mulch; Into a Timeless Realm*, 3/03). Developing this appreciation is the secret to living life fruitfully and is all that matters in the long run. One of the keys to this is trust—and the world is your oyster when you can trust yourself, for you cannot be trusting and anxious at the same time. When you realise that life supports you, that life has an intelligent design, then self-trust is an expression of that same intelligence.



Michael and his wife Treenie (parents of our illustrious editor, Duncan) established Australia's answer to Findhorn at the Homeland Community in northern New South Wales, having already been intrinsic to the rise of the organic growing movement in Tasmania. But preoccupation with the famed "big veggies" is a distraction, and one of Roads's messages is that quantity does not necessarily equal quality!

Having heaps of assets is also no guarantee of a healthy life. Embracing a wholistic lifestyle is ultimately more enriching and rewarding. Taking personal responsibility, honouring oneself and having an "attitude of gratitude" are important pointers on the road to abundance and prosperity. However, Michael Roads warns that we may have to be prepared to analyse our dark side and deal with it to get to our core truth.

With its many positive messages, this is a life-affirming book that gets down to basics.

HIGH PRIESTS, QUANTUM GENES: Science, Religion and the Theory of Everything

by Michael Hayes

Black Spring Press Ltd, UK, 2004

ISBN 1-948238-29-1 (256pp tpb)

Availability: Black Spring Press,

<http://www.blackspringpress.co.uk>

In ancient times, sages, philosophers, priest-kings and architects understood the unifying principles that explain life, the universe and everything. Modern-day seeker Mike Hayes (*The Infinite Harmony*) believes the fundamental ordering principle to be the so-called Hermetic Code, and he's found its resonance going all the way back to ancient Egypt (although evidence suggests knowledge of the code is way, way older).

In *High Priests, Quantum Genes* (with introduction by acclaimed author Colin Wilson), Hayes defines this "as above, so below" code as based on sound, music and number—the same numbers found in the Chinese *I Ching* and in our genes, he was amazed to discover. These numbers represent the law of three, involving active, passive and neutral forces, and the law of octaves, which holds that vibrations ascend or descend in proportional steps of seven or eight, representing erratic evolutionary as well as musical scales.

Hayes realised that two other key numbers, 22 and 64, are hidden in the DNA: four kinds of chemical bases, three of which make a triplet codon or amino-acid template, of which there are 64 variations, with each of those codons corresponding to one of 22 more complex components, i.e., the 20 amino acids and two coded instructions for starting and stopping the process of synthesis. He had to wonder about the coincidence with the *I Ching*, as the 64 hexagrams are constructed from four basic two-line symbols of broken or unbroken, yin or yang, lines. Then there's the 22/7 number, equivalent to π , which the ancients were quite familiar with if their megalithic structures and pyramids are any guide.

There's no limit to the possibilities, for Hayes has identified a system that applies from the microscopic to the cosmic scale. In the process of arriving at these revelations, he was inspired by the works of Gurdjieff and Ouspensky and also by exploratory LSD trips wherein he perceived the very vibratory "dancing sparks" nature of the universe that the sages and shamans have been describing for aeons and is behind all the great religious experiences. His apparent discovery of the unifying keys of the code of life may help us take our next evolutionary step.

At the very least, Hayes offers us a different, harmonised way of seeing and hearing our multidimensional world.

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VIDEOS, DVDs

Reviewed by Duncan Roads

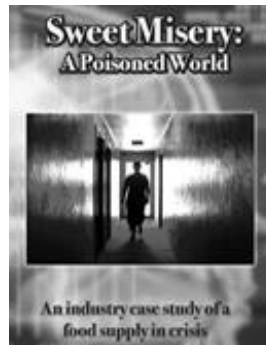
SWEET MISERY: A Poisoned World – An industry case study of a food supply in crisis

Narrated by Cori Brackett

Produced by Sound and Fury Productions, Inc., USA, 2004 (video)

Availability: **USA**—Sound and Fury Productions, Inc., 2301 East Broadway Blvd #111, Tucson, AZ 85719, USA, tel +1 (520) 624 9710, fax (520) 624 3143, website <http://www.soundandfury.tv>;

UK—Namaste Publishing, PO Box 127, Shrewsbury SY3 7WS, website <http://www.namastepublishing.co.uk>



Aspartame is used in many sugar substitutes worldwide. Often branded as NutraSweet or Equal, it's found in diet drinks and other products too numerous to mention. It is one of the most tested substances in food, yet it's still killing people. Worse, it is not being recognised officially as a poison because of corruption in high places. If you or your loved ones regularly consume aspartame, watch this video. If you or any loved ones suffer from MS, lupus, fibromyalgia, diabetes or brain tumour, you *must* watch this video. It is the journey of one person diagnosed with MS, who discovered much more than she'd bargained for. It is the best collection of scientific and medical data, interviews with victims and medical specialists on the subject of aspartame I have ever seen.

Six months after the introduction of aspartame in the USA in 1983, the brain tumour rate jumped 10%, the diabetes rate jumped 30%, and the lymphoma rate jumped 60%. Nobody has any idea of the number of deaths caused by aspartame poisoning because the medical establishment refuses to acknowledge the connection.

And if your loved one dies directly from aspartame's poisonous by-products, you can end up jailed for murder—as you will see on this film. It is time for the aspartame deaths and suffering to stop.

OUT IN THE FIELDS 2003

Presented and written by Stuart Dike
Produced by Crop Circle Connector, UK, 2003 (DVD, 48mins + 28mins bonus)

Availability: Crop Circle Connector, website www.cropcircleconnector.com

I love watching excellent video footage of crop circles (especially from the air). Combine the exquisite shapes and patterns of the formations with the rippling effects of the wind upon the crops, add some really nice music to suit and throw in lots of valuable local and historical information and—presto!—before you know it, you have another great DVD on the subject. This one comes with a cute map of what was where in 2003, and I was pleased to find the film footage of 2002 crop circle formations also on the DVD. Great job, Stuart; I hope you make this an annual product!



9/11: THE GREAT ILLUSION End Game of the Illuminati – Our Choice: Fear or Love?

Written/produced by George Humphrey
Common Sense, 2004 (DVD, 115mins)
Availability: George Humphrey, Common Sense, PO Box 5772, Austin, TX 78763, USA, website <http://www.fearorlove.com>

Given the impact of 9/11 upon the lives of Americans, one would have expected many more documentaries on the subject than have appeared to date. Maybe the lack of investigation is purposeful? Anyway, George Humphrey has done a masterful job in rounding up *all* the information and discrepancies of 9/11, covering: the alleged hijackers, their connections and behaviours; the flights, crashes and lack of intercepts; the construction and collapse of the WTC buildings; the still controversial attack on the Pentagon; the foreknowledge, cover-ups and non-investigations; and the cosy financial relationships between the Bush administration, oil companies and arms manufacturers. This 115-minute documentary has excellent archival video footage, is full of hard facts and is low on speculation. Everyone should see this film!



REVIEWS

MUSIC

Reviewed by Richard Giles

TRAVEL THE WORLD WITH PUTUMAYO

by various artists

Putumayo, USA, 2004 (DVD, 65mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—Pinnacle Imports, tel 01689 870622; **USA**—Putumayo, tel 1888 7888 8629, website <http://www.putumayo.com>

Putumayo has been releasing world music for 11 years, and its first entry into the DVD field brings together some of the label's memorable artists onto one video concert album. It's a real treat. You can watch Oliver Mtukudzi (Zimbabwe), Touré Kunda (Senegal), Chico César (Brazil), Ricardo Lemvo (Congo), Kotoja (Nigeria), Hisham Abbas and Jayashree (Egypt, India), Habib Koité (Mali) and many more artists. There's also a cute Bollywood clip. My favourite track features Chico César dancing down the street with dozens of children surrounding him. A great celebratory video.

FLOATING WORLD

by Riley Lee & Marshall McGuire

New World Music, Aust, 2004 (65mins)
Distributors: **Australia**—New World Music, tel (02) 9565 4522; **UK**—New World Music, tel (0)1986 781682; **USA**—New World Music, tel (303) 415 1040, <http://www.newworldmusic.com>

The grand master of the *shakuhachi*, Riley Lee, is here again with classical harp player Marshall McGuire and an exquisite collection of pieces for shakuhachi (Japanese flute) and concert harp (see NEXUS 7/05). *Floating World* mixes classical Japanese and European compositions in a beautiful sound performance which touches the soul. There are compositions from Ravel and Erik Satie, plus a stand-out piece, "A Feather on the Breath of God", by Australian composer Anne Boyd. A pure sound album, connecting you with ancient Eastern and Western classical traditions.

MAMA AFRICA

by Suzzana Owiyo

Arc Music Prodn, UK, 2004 (61mins)
Distributor: **UK**—Arc Music, tel +44 (0)1342 328 567, website <http://www.arcmusic.co.uk>

Suzzana Owiyo is from Kenya, where she has been involved with music since high school. Her calling was the *nyatiti* (Kenyan lyre), and later she took up the box guitar. By 1997, she was a vocalist with the Extra Kimwa Band which helped make her a

name. In 2003, she won the Kisima Music Award for the most promising female artist and is today considered Kenya's most popular female singer. *Mama Africa* brings her powerful style to the front, exhibiting her strong voice and socially aware lyrics.

FLOR DE AMOR

by Omara Portuondo

World Circuit Ltd, UK, 2004 (49mins)
Distributors: **Aust**—MRA Entertainment, tel (07) 3849 6020; **UK**—World Circuit Ltd, tel (0)1689 870622, website <http://www.worldcircuit.co.uk>

The men and women from the acclaimed Buena Vista Social Club (NEXUS 5/02) are still releasing new material. Omara Portuondo is one of the originals, and her warm, quietly passionate Cuban vocal style works well combined with laid-back piano, guitar, flute, clarinet, bass and congas. The album also features Cuba's legendary Manuel Galbán on electric guitar. This is calm and affectionate music to relax with on warm, dreamy evenings with your friends.

SPEAKING THE MAMMA TONGUE

by John McDowell

Raven Recordings, USA, 2004 (51mins)
Distributor: **USA**—Raven Recordings, <http://www.ravenrecording.com>; **Eur**—Aquarius!, tel +49 81 4134 8545

Raven Records has a wonderful track record of bringing contemporary quiet trance music to the world with artists such as Robert Ansell and Gabrielle Roth & The Mirrors (NEXUS 2/21, 3/03). Combining soul percussion with rhythmic drums and bass backed vocals, their CDs always manage to get you moving. "Maybe we should stand back and look with something other than our eyes," says McDowell in the opening song. *Speaking the Mamma Tongue* features musicians and singers from Tibetan, Israeli, African and Native American traditions. Global music with a clear message to unite body and soul. Highly recommended.

